[SAE] information corresponding to a stored amount of energy [SAE] sensed by the sensor;

a central station including a computer system coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication unit for receiving and processing stored amount of energy [SAE] information and vehicle location information, transmitted by said wireless communication unit, for vehicle allocation by the central computer in a vehicle sharing system.

2. (Amended) A stored energy tracking system for a vehicle, as in claim1 where the vehicle is an electric powered vehicle having a battery power source, the stored amount of energy [SAE] is the state of charge [SOC] of the battery, and the sensor comprises a sensor for sensing the state of charge [SOC] of the battery.

3. (Amended) A stored energy tracking system for a vehicle as in claim 1, wherein the central station comprises a display device and said processing stored amount of energy [SAE] information comprises displaying stored amount of energy [SAE] information

4. (Amended) A stored energy tracking system for a vehicle as in claim 1, wherein the central station comprises a recording device and said processing stored amount of energy [SAE] information comprises recording stored amount of energy [SAE] information.

5. (Amended) A stored energy tracking system for a vehicle as in claim 1, wherein said central station comprises a computer programmed to compare a sensed stored amount of energy [SAE] and to generate a first signal in response to a change between compared stored amounts of energy [SAEs] greater than a predefined value.

7. (Amended) A stored energy tracking system for a vehicle as in claim 6, wherein said central station comprises a computer programmed to determine whether the sensed stored amount of energy [SAE] is greater than a predefined minimum stored amount of energy [SAE] value and to generate a second signal in response to the sensed stored amount of energy [SAE] being less than a predefined minimum stored amount of energy [SAE] value.

9. (Amended) A stored energy tracking system for a vehicle as in claim 1, wherein said central station comprises a computer programmed to determine whether the sensed stored amount of energy [SAE] is greater than a predefined minimum stored amount of energy [SAE] value and to generate a low stored amount of energy [SAE] signal in response to the sensed stored amount of energy [SAE] being less than a predefined minimum stored amount of energy [SAE] value.

10. (Amended) Line 26, after "low" delete "SAE" and insert --stored amount of energy--.

11. (Amended) A vehicle sharing system operable with at least one port at which one or more vehicles from a fleet of vehicles may be shared among a plurality of users, each vehicle having a stored energy source defining a stored amount of energy [SAE] at any given time, the system comprising:

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the stored amount of energy [SAE] of the associated vehicle;

a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting stored amount of energy [SAE] information corresponding to a stored amount of energy [SAE] sensed by the sensor;

a central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for receiving stored amount of energy [SAE] information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and programmed to process stored amount of energy [SAE] information and vehicle location information to select and allocate vehicles to users based on stored amount of energy [SAE] information and vehicle location information.

14. (Amended) A system as recited in claim 12, wherein:

each vehicle comprises an electric powered vehicle having a battery power source and the stored amount of energy [SAE] is the state of charge [SOC] of the battery power source;

each port includes a charging facility for selectively coupling to a vehicle to increase the state of charge [SOC] of the vehicle over a charging time period;

said central station computer system is programmed to process vehicle location information and stored amount of energy [SAE] information to include a vehicle in the vehicle search group of a given port if the vehicle is located at a charging facility at the port and has a charging time period which is due to expire within a predefined time period.

15. (Amended) A system as recited in claim 11, wherein:

each vehicle comprises an electric powered vehicle having a battery power source and the stored amount of energy [SAE] is the state of charge [SOC] of the battery power source;

each port includes a charging facility for selectively coupling to a vehicle to increase the state of charge [SOC] of the vehicle over a charging time period;

said central station computer system is programmed to process vehicle location information and stored amount of energy [SAE] information to select a vehicle located at a given port for coupling to the charging facility at the port, based on the stored amount of energy [SAE] information for the vehicle.

16. (Amended) A system as recited in claim 11, wherein:

each vehicle comprises an electric powered vehicle having a battery power source and the stored amount of energy [SAE] is the state of charge [SOC] of the battery power source;

each port includes a charging facility for selectively coupling to a vehicle to increase the state of charge [SOC] of the vehicle over a charging time period;

said central station computer system is programmed to process vehicle location information and stored amount of energy [SAE] information for determining a charging order for a plurality of vehicles located at a port based on the stored amount of energy [SAE] of each vehicle in the plurality of vehicles.

17. (Amended) A system as recited in claim 16, wherein said charging order is defined by the order of the stored amounts of energy [SAEs] of the vehicles, from the lowest stored amount of energy [SAE] toward the highest stored amount of energy [SAE].

18. (Amended) A system according to claim 16, wherein:

said charging facility defines a charging rate for each vehicle, wherein the charging rate comprises the vehicle's increasing state of charge [SOC] over the charging period and wherein a plot of the charging rate of each vehicle includes a generally linear region below a first state of charge [SOC] level and a generally nonlinear region above the first state of charge [SOC] level.

said central station computer system is further programmed to assign a vehicle to a charge if the state of charge of [the state of charge SOC] the vehicle is such that the charger will be operating in its linear charge region upon coupling to the vehicle.

19. (Amended) A stored energy tracking method for a vehicle in a vehicle sharing system, in which vehicles are allocated to users in response to requests by users, the vehicle having a stored energy source defining the stored amount of energy [SAE] at any given time, the method comprising:

sensing the stored amount of energy [SAE] of the vehicle with a sensor installed in the vehicle;

transmitting stored amount of energy [SAE] information corresponding to stored amount of energy [SAE] sensed by the sensor with a wireless communication unit installed in the vehicle;

receiving and processing stored amount of energy [SAE] information and vehicle location information transmitted by said wireless communication unit at a central station for use in allocating vehicles by a central computer in a vehicle sharing system.

20. (Amended) A method as in claim 19 where the vehicle is an electric powered vehicle having a battery power source, the stored amount of energy [SAE] is the state of charge [SOC] of the battery, and the step of sensing the stored amount of energy [SAE] comprises sensing the state of charge [SOC] of the battery.

21. (Amended) A method as in claim 19, wherein the step of processing stored amount of energy [SAE] information comprises displaying stored amount of energy [SAE] information on a display device at the central station.

22. (Amended) A method as in claim 19, wherein the step of processing stored amount of energy [SAE] information comprises recording stored amount of energy [SAE] information on a recording device at the central station.

23. (Amended) A method as in claim 19, further comprising:

comparing a sensed stored amount of energy [SAE] with a previously sensed stored amount of energy [SAE] and to generate a first signal in response to a change between compared stored amounts of energy [SAEs] greater than a predefined value; and

displaying a warning message on a display device installed on the vehicle, in response to the first signal.

24. (Amended) A method as in claim 23, further comprising:

comparing a sensed stored amount of energy [SAE] with a predefined minimum stored amount of energy [SAE] value and generating a second signal in response to the sensed stored amount of energy [SAE] being less than a predefined minimum stored amount of energy [SAE] value; and

displaying a warning message on the display device installed on the vehicle, in response to the second signal.

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending; claims 1, 11 and 19 are independent. Applicants have amended claims 11 and 18 to correct a typographical error. Applicants have also amended independent claims 1 and 19 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim their invention. Applicants have also made a universal amendment in claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, 14-25 by replacing the abbreviations with their non-abbreviated terms to clarify the claims and avoid redundancy. All claims stand rejected. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have enclosed herewith an English language abstract of French patent 2,732,144 ("'144 patent") in order to comply with their duty to disclose and explain its relevance as it is presently understood. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3). Submission of an English language abstract of a reference may fulfill the requirement for a concise explanation. MPEP § 609(A)(3), 600-